

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE SARL NEWS SUNDAY 1999 AUGUST 22

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL transmitting Amateur Radio News , a service from the South African Radio League for the interest of all Radio Amateurs, Short-wave Listeners and Electronic Enthusiasts. For a complete list of broadcast times and frequencies please send a SASE to Amateur Radio News, SARL, P O Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735. This bulletin is also available on the SARL's web pages hosted by Intekom at www.sarl.org.za.

NEWS HEADLINES:

- SARL INDABA ON THE AIR SCHEDULED FOR 29 AUGUST TO DISCUSS TEACHING FOR THE RAE AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES WITH GUEST SPEAKER RASSIE ERASMUS
- HAMRADIO FEATURES IN A MOVIE ON MNET TONIGHT, SUNDAY 22 AUGUST
- CAPE REPEATER LINK NOW COVERS OVER 1000KM

You are tuned to ZS6SRL, the news in detail next.

SILENT KEY

We regret to announce the passing away of Don Milbank ZS5SR. To his family and friends we offer our sincere condolences.

Pause

NEXT WEEK'S SARL ON-THE-AIR INDABA TO DISCUSS THE RAE

The SARL on-the-air Indaba scheduled for Sunday 29 August at 20:00 SAST will discuss all aspects of the Radio Amateur Examination, from teaching to writing the examination including appointment of invigilators and Morse examiners and moderators. The guest speaker will be Rassie Erasmus who is the Councillor responsible for RAE. The host will be Laurie Devereux ZS5DL.

Clubs wishing to be connected to the teleconference bridge are requested to send details to sarlnews@intekom.co.za or by fax to 031 765-6456 by not later than Friday 27 August. Please supply name and callsign of the facilitator, the telephone number to be connected to, an alternate number if available (to make contact with the facilitator in the event of problems) and the frequency that the Indaba will be transmitted on and the area covered.

CAPE REPEATER SYSTEM COVERS OVER 1000KM

History was made on Thursday 19 August when at 17:00 Amateurs in Port Elizabeth and Mosselbay made contact with a mobile station in Belville, over 1000 kilometres. Chris Meyers ZS1M covered the story for SARLNEWS and reports as follows:

“Chris Scarr ZS2AAW of Port Elizabeth has been planning to establish a repeater link that stretches from East London to Cape Town. He has been upgrading repeater after repeater in a complex system that involves several radio clubs in the area.

Chris spent the long weekend at the beginning of August installing various repeaters in the link. On August 7, the Stilbaai repeater and linking repeaters were installed. The next day the Mosselbay repeater system was installed at the Danabay Water tower. Next was the repeater at Klipkop in Riversdal. On his way back Chris called in at George to make some adjustments to the repeater there and returned to Port Elizabeth.

The big day arrived on 17 August when Chris ZS2AAW called ZS1M to switch on the Jonaskop repeater. Using DTMF tones like magic the link was activated.

“When I heard the beep beep coming back I felt like what Marconi must have when he received the first signal across the Atlantic.

Congratulations to Chris Scarr ZS2AAW and thank you all the radio amateurs and clubs that have donated equipment, funds and their time and effort to make this link possible.

HAMRADIO ON TV TONIGHT

Tonight, Sunday 22 August 1999, at 20:00 SAST the film “Contact” will be screened on the M-Net television channel and features amateur radio and radioastronomy. It is based on the best-selling novel by Professor Carl Sagan about a scientist who picks up a radio signal from outer space.

“Please pay particular attention to the beginning of the film when the camera moves away from our Sun and solar system, through our galaxy the Milky Way into deep space. The composite images are the finest ever recorded by the Hubble Space Telescope to provide a tour through the Universe”, Mike Bosch ZS2FM told SARLNEWS

“Furthermore, as the camera recedes from our Solar System, so snatches of actual past radio and television broadcasts become audible, ending with Morse Code signals which eventually fade out some eighty light years from Earth.”

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

When renewing your membership of the SARL, we request that those depositing directly into the SARL bank account please complete the FROM section at the bottom of the deposit slip. This section requires your name and telephone number, together with your call sign in the “reference number” field. This assists the SARL to record the deposit to the correct member. As the bank does not always capture this detail, we also request that you please either fax or post a copy of the deposit slip, together with your completed renewal form, to the SARL.

SUNSAT ON THE AIR THIS SUNDAY

SUNSAT will be operating this Sunday in the Mode B repeater mode with the uplink on 436,291 and the downlink on 145,825 MHz. To allow for Doppler use the following frequencies for the uplink: during the beginning of the pass transmit on 436,285, during the middle of the pass use 436,290 and towards the end of the pass switch to 436,295. If your transceiver has a memory you can set up several uplink frequencies and switch as the pass progresses. The approx times for Sunday are:

11:43 to 11:57 SAST

13:20 to 13:35 SAST

The SUNSAT computer is still in ultra safe mode, which means that the slightest upset will program the CPU into standby mode which switches off the diary that controls the operation of the transponders. Later versions of the software will obviate this problem, but until all parameters have been fully tested the “ultra safe” position will be maintained.

In Satellite Review broadcast in Amateur Radio Mirror the suggested operating procedure will be reviewed.

SARL OFFERS A SPECIAL ON DESIGN SOFTWARE

The SARL Book shop has reduced the price of the ARRL Radio Designer Software. The special offer to members is R 1150. The retail price is now R1400. This offer is valid till 31 December or as long as stocks last.

With ARRL Radio Designer you can build, test and evaluate audio and radio circuits without warming up your soldering iron, running out of parts or investing in expensive test equipment. Here is just a small example of what you can be done with this incredible Windows-based software:

? model passive and small-signal linear circuits from audio to RF, including amplifiers, filters, matching networks, power splitters and combiners

? measure simulated operating parameters and evaluate the effects of component tolerances

? optimise circuit performance to meet goals you specify - and more Included in the package is a detailed user manual, both printed and online. Call 088 120 5042 to place credit card orders.

KLERKSDORP STREET FESTIVAL ON THE AIR

The North West Amateur Radio Club is planning a special event station during the Klerksdorp Street Festival on the 28th August 1999. The station will operate on HF, 2m and 70cm. The station will be on the air between 08:00 and 15:00. A special card will be sent to all stations making contact. At the time of going on air the callsign details were not available.

FLARES CAN BE EXPECTED THIS WEEK

For the period 21 to 29 August Dwight West ZS6NT forecasts that solar activity will be low to Moderate. Flux levels will continue increasing during this period. The chances of a major flare will increase during this period. A Proton event can also be expected. Geo-magnetic conditions will remain quiet to active. K-index levels may be high during this forecast period. Conditions are expected to be variable becoming stable later.

Last week solar activity was low to Moderate. The flux was in the low 130's The A-index ranged between 13 and 30. Geo-magnetic conditions were quiet to Major storm conditions. A Major storm began at 09h00 UTC on the 16th and ended at 12h00 on the 18th. This resulted in generally poor conditions.

NEW COMMITTEE

The Highway Amateur Radio Club has elected the following members to their committee:

Chairman: Allan Bean ZS5A Vice Chairman: Keith Lowes ZS5WFD Treasurer: Janet Musto ZS5JAN Secretary: Justin Furner ZS5KT Members: Brad Glen ZR5B; Tony Mayall ZS5GR; Edwin Musto ZS5BBO

DIARY OF ACTIVITY

The SARL HF CW contest will be held on August 29 from 15:00 - 18:00. Full details are available on the SARLweb at www.sarl.org.za

SAATI resumes its technical discussion net on Saturday August 28, 1999. Frequencies to listen on are 145,725 (Pretoria) and 7066 kHz. The net starts at 14:00 SAST. All packet radio enthusiasts are welcome to air questions and also hear about the interesting new projects. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday August 30, 1999 at 19:30 for 20:00. The meeting is in the Lyttleton Library situated in Cantonements road Lyttleton. It is in the form of a workshop and discussions. So bring along your faulty modems and questions, the experts will be there to assist.

SA AMSAT will be holding its next meeting at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Wednesday 25 August at 18:00.

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will be holding a boot Sale at their club House, Kroton Road, Roodepoort on Saturday 28 August from 08:00. For details contact Bill van Zyl during office hours on 011 726-6807

The Highveld Amateur Radio Club will be holding its AGM on 4 September 1999. The venue is at the Germiston Methodist Church, Lady Duncan Street, Germiston. 14:00 for 14:30. All members are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information call ZS6BFL at (011) 893-1291

Radio Clubs are invited to supply information for inclusion in the Diary of events. Information must reach the SARL News Service by not later than two weeks before the event. Information may be faxed to 031 765-6456 or by Email to: sarlnews@intekom.co.za. Please note the correct Email address.

The South African Radio League provides this bulletin of news as a service to Radio Amateurs and interested listeners on the African Continent. Join us on Sundays at 12:00 for the President's Net on 7082 kHz. This bulletin was written by ZS5AKV and read by ..

News in this bulletin was provided by the SARL News Service, Amateu Radio Clubs in South Africa, Amateur Radio Online and the ARRL .

Every Sunday you are invited to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International. The programme is on the air on Sundays at 10:00 SAST on 9750 and 21530 kHz and repeated on Mondays at 20:00 SAST on 3215 kHz. Sentech, the common carrier for broadcasting signals in South Africa and Telkom who provides the transmission lines, sponsor these transmissions. The following VHF frequencies are also activated from the Sentech Meyerton Transmitter site: 145,375 for the Northern Free State and Vaal triangle areas and 145,400 covering the greater Johannesburg area. In the greater Durban area there is a relay on 145,650 MHz.

ends - ZS5AKV.